

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A basket rescue stretcher apparatus which includes:
  - 5 a pair of top rails extending longitudinally along upper opposite side edges of the stretcher so as to define an opening into a stretcher cavity within the stretcher, at least two pairs of carabiner mounting members rigidly mounted to the stretcher, each said pair of carabiner mounting members mounted spaced longitudinally apart along the stretcher rail, each carabiner mounting member of said pair of carabiner mounting members extending into said stretcher cavity and defining a carabiner receiving opening which lies in a first plane which is substantially perpendicular both to a vertical second plane containing a corresponding said top rail and to a horizontal third plane which contains said pair of top rails, wherein at least said carabiner receiving opening protrudes inwardly from a circumference of the stretcher defined by said pair of top rails, and whereby a carabiner when mounted through said carabiner receiving opening passes through said opening aligned substantially parallel to the corresponding said top rail.
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- 20 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the stretcher further includes a pair of side rails extending longitudinally along opposite sides of the stretcher between said pair of top rails and a floor of the stretcher, and wherein said carabiner mounting members are rigidly mounted to said pair of side rails.
- 25 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said pair of side rails are substantially parallel to said pair of top rails and wherein each said carabiner mounting member is an elongate member having an upper end mounted to a corresponding said top rail and a lower end mounted to a corresponding said side rail.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said elongate member is a bar having an inverted L-shape so as to form said carabiner receiving opening as an upper elbow of said bar protruding inwardly of the corresponding said top rail and side rail.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said elongate member is a plate having an aperture therein so that said aperture forms said carabiner receiving opening.

6. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said bar has a thickness which is not larger than the size of the opening in an elbow in a carabiner to which said carabiner mounting member would be mounted.

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7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said plate has a thickness which is not larger than the size of the opening in an elbow in a carabiner to which said carabiner mounting member would be mounted.

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8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said aperture is at said upper end of said plate.

9. A basket rescue stretcher system which includes:

20 a pair of top rails extending longitudinally along upper opposite side edges of the stretcher so as to define an opening into a stretcher cavity within the stretcher,

25 a pair of carabiner mounting members rigidly mountable to the stretcher, each said pair of carabiner mounting members mountable spaced longitudinally apart along the stretcher, each carabiner mounting member of said pair of carabiner mounting members extending into said stretcher cavity and, when mounted to the stretcher extending into said stretcher cavity and defining a carabiner receiving opening which lies in a first plane which is substantially perpendicular both to a vertical second plane containing the corresponding said top rail and to a horizontal third plane which

contains said pair of top rails, wherein at least said carabiner receiving opening of said carabiner mounting members protrudes inwardly from a circumference of the stretcher defined by said pair of top rails, and whereby a carabiner when mounted through said carabiner receiving opening passes through said opening aligned substantially parallel to the corresponding said top rail.

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10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the stretcher further includes a pair of side rails extending longitudinally along opposite sides of the stretcher between said pair of top rails and a floor of the stretcher, and wherein said carabiner mounting members are rigidly mounted to said pair of side rails.
15. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said pair of side rails are substantially parallel to said pair of top rails and wherein each said carabiner mounting member is an elongate member having an upper end mountable to a corresponding said top rail and a lower end mountable to a corresponding said side rail.
20. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said elongate member is a bar having an inverted L-shape so as to form said carabiner receiving opening as an upper elbow of said bar protruding inwardly of the corresponding said top rail and side rail when mounted thereto.
25. 14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said bar has a thickness which is not larger than the size of the opening in an elbow in a carabiner to which said carabiner mounting member would be mounted.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said plate has a thickness which is not larger than the size of the opening in an elbow in a carabiner to which said carabiner mounting member would be mounted.
- 5 16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said aperture is at said upper end of said plate.